

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th August 1871.*

No. 97. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd August 1871, No. 3,218 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 28th June 1871, No. 1,209.

THE time has now come when it is necessary to decide whether any distinction should in future be maintained between what have been hitherto called "Salt-lines" and other *district roads*, in which term I include all *quondam* Imperial roads.

2. Unless provision for salt-lines is to be made in the Salt Budget, no virtual distinction will exist.

3. I have the honour to refer the Board to their Proceedings dated 3rd October 1868, No. 6,990, wherein they approved of a list of salt-lines for this district, and, in paragraph 3, expressed an opinion that certain short salt-lines might be maintained from the Salt Budget for "Petty Construction and Repairs."

4. The point to be now decided should, it appears to me, embrace not only the maintenance, but the construction of certain salt-lines. The question resolves itself into this, are the amalgamated Provincial and Local Funds to bear the cost of roads that are solely of use to the Imperial salt revenue; or should the cost of such roads be charged to that revenue? Or should the cost be shared in proportion to the relative value of any of such roads to the salt revenue, and to the local public?

5. If no such principle is to be admitted, it is necessary that we should know it, in order to provide in our Budgets accordingly. If, on the other hand, the principle is held to be just, the list of salt-lines, approved by the Board for this district, for instance, would require considerable and careful revision. Roads like those from Dugurazupatam to Gudur, from Ongole to Kottapatam, and from Kristnapatam to Nellore, I should strike out of the salt list, and hold to be purely local; because they would be equally necessary to the local public if no salt was manufactured at Dugurazupatam, Kottapatam, and Kristnapatam. Some of the others, while mainly useful to the salt revenue, would partially benefit the local public, while a few, I believe, it might be said, are of no use at all except to the salt revenue.

6. Let me now refer the Board to the two following Government orders :—

(1.) Government Order, Revenue Department, 11th Jan. 1871, No. 73.

(2.) Do. do. 9th Feb. 1871, ,, 32.

from which they will observe that estimates for two salt-lines were therein sanctioned, involving the respective sums of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 29,800, and that in these cases it was proposed to charge the cost to the Imperial Public Works Budget.

7. Now these lines are of great importance mainly, if not wholly, to the salt revenue; and under these circumstances, I desire to know how to deal with them, and as soon as possible; for, if it is decided that the Salt Budget is not under any circumstances to be charged with the cost of any roads, I would at once request the Board to allot the necessary funds to put all these roads in hand in the current year from the unappropriated balance of the District Road Fund, as amalgamated with the provincial lump grant.

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8. How far it is intended that the Local Fund Boards are to have authority to deal with the expenditure of the current year we have not been informed, nor is it possible to predicate what view they may take of their liability in connection with roads that are only useful to the salt revenue. To me, in my general capacity as Collector, the speedy completion of these roads is a matter of importance, and in the absence of any other means of doing so, I should certainly, if I had the power, devote Local Funds to them; but I can well understand more Members of a Local Fund Board saying "let us at all events complete first all roads that will be of use to the general public," and, if this view were acted upon, so great are the requirements of this district in respect to roads that all progress on purely salt lines would be indefinitely postponed. I should like to have some authoritative guide to the arguments by which, as their President, I might oppose the above view, if entertained by the Board.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Board have already in their Proceedings to Government, dated 27th June 1871, No. 2,588, brought the necessity for a decision on the points noticed by Mr. VansAgnew, under the consideration of Government.

No. 98. ORDER THEREON, 17th August 1871, No. 1,373.

Separate Revenue, No. 9.
Salt.

COMMUNICATED to the Department Public Works and to the Financial Department, with reference to the Proceedings in the former department, No. 1,863, dated 15th July 1871.

2. The Government observe that easy means of access to the salt stores are not devoid of importance to the district in which the works are situated, although they may also benefit districts not on the coast.

3. For purely departmental requirements provision to some extent is annually made under "Salt, Petty Construction and Repairs" in which the immediate approaches are or may be included.

4. The Board will consider whether additions on this account should be made in next year's Budget.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. DE C. SCOTT, Captain, R.E.

Under-Secy., P.W.D.,
for Secy. to Govt.

To the Public Works Department.
.. the Financial Department.
.. the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Gentleman.

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Under-Secy., P.W.D.,
for Secy. to Govt.

To the Public Works Department.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Dantleman.

72-1373

Comm. to J. E. W. and Co.

Exd. G. A. Tarton.

Mr. J. S. K. K. K. K.

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Board of Revenue
MADRAS.
10-2-03

PROCEEDINGS, 2ND AUGUST 1971, NO. 3,218

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AUGUST.
No. 3,218.

Salt roads—and other District roads.—Letters from Collector of Nellore regarding distinction to be made between, submitted for orders of Government.

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With order
 of 1373-17 Aug 1871

№ 1373

Comm. to J. F. W. and Co

Exd. G. A. Turton.

H. J. S. & Co.

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17 Aug 41

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 2ND AUGUST 1871, NO. 3,218.

Aug 10 Aug 7/71
Encl.

Index.

AUGUST.
No. 3,218.

Sub roads—and other District roads.—Letter from Collector of Nellore regarding distinction to be made between, submitted for orders of Government.

Exd. F. R. Cattleman.